[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

whether the Government would make an enquiry in respect of the allegations contained in such articles. These questions have been held inadmissible as contrary to practice and it will be obvious that it would be neither desirable nor feasible for Government to go into each and every allegation made in a newspaper. When, however, a member personally makes himself responsible for the accuracy of such statements, then the Government will make the necessary enquiries. Several members have by means of interpellations asked Government to make a statement of the policy underlying certain administrative measures and I may say that it is not the practice to *interpellate* Government with a view to elicit an expression of policy as, within the limits of an answer, it will be impossible for Government to explain the policy pursued or proposed to be pursued and the reasons which underlie such policy. I would also mention that it is not the practice to ask for information which has already been published and which is available to the public if they would only take the trouble to seek it.

I am mentioning all these things in the hope that the interpellations sent up by the members on future occasions may be so framed as to save the President the necessity of disallowing any of them. I am free to confess that, this being the first occasion, when questions in such large measure had to be dealt with and so expeditiously amidst the pressure of heavy work, it may have happened that questions which could have been allowed might by oversight have been disallowed and *vice versa*, and in this matter I would ask the indulgence of the Council.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12.*

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

PREPARATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTORAL ROLLS.

1. MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government do not know that the present Legislative Council Electoral Rolls have not been correctly prepared in several taluks and that the same has been the cause of grave discontent among the people?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government have taken any and what steps to punish the officers responsible for these incorrect electoral rolls?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) Government have received information that the electoral rolls in some cases are incorrect. It was

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open to the electors to get those mistakes corrected by the Revising Authorities under Rule 9 of the Legislative Council Electoral Rules, dated the 26th December, 1921.

(*b*) Specific allegations are being enquired into.

WORKING OF THE INCOME TAX REGULATION.

2. MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they know that the Income Tax Regulation is becoming very unpopular among the public?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the following particulars concerning the working of the Regulation, *viz.*,

(1) the total number of assessees throughout the State;

(2) the total number of cases in which the accounts of the assessees have been acted upon, whether for not acting upon the accounts the officers have made any record of their reasons, the number of cases in which such reasons are stated and the number of cases in which no reason is stated;

(3) how many appeals have been filed by the assessees, and how many allowed, together with the number disallowed on technical grounds; and

(4) whether the Government have issued any private instructions to the Income Tax officers regarding the working of the Regulation? If there be any private instructions, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table such instructions for perusal by the Council?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) (1) 2,583.

(2) Government do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by the collection of these statistics. The Income Tax Commissioner has issued general instructions to assessing officers that they should record specifically the reasons for not accepting the assessees' accounts or contentions, and assessees have the right of appeal.

(3) Information has been called for and will be laid on the table when received.

(4) Government have not issued any private instructions.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO DR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI.

3. MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Will the Government be pleased to state what encouragement the Government have given to Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai, M. B., F. R. C. S. (Edin.), on his return from England after a distinguished career of post-graduate study at his own cost and whether the Government have made any arrangements so as to enable Dr. Raman Pillai to utilise his knowledge in advanced surgery and diseases of the ear, nose and throat for the benefit of the people of Travancore?

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